GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:525
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2008
INDIAN FOLK ARTS
Ramadass Prof. M;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that most of the Indian traditional folk cultures are disappearing;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to formulate any concrete policy to revive the Indian folk arts;

(c) whether the folk artists in the country are on the verge of starvation; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken to give incentive to the artists?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM & CULTURE(SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a)&(b): The Government is already implementing a variety of schemes aimed at preserving, promoting and reviving the Indian folk arts. The Government has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres to extend support to folk and traditional arts and artisans of the country. Through these Centres, the Government is implementing a "Scheme for Documentation of Vanishing Art Forms" for revival and documentation of vanishing art forms. In addition to this, under the National Cultural Exchange Programme (NCEP) operated by Zonal Cultural Centres, folk troupes are sent to various States within the Zone as well as other States. The Zonal Cultural Centres also operate a "Theatre Rejuvenation Scheme" for promotion of traditional and folk theatre. The Ministry of Culture is also implementing a Scheme for Promotion and Dissemination of Tribal /Folk art and Culture. Under this Scheme, financial assistance is provided to Voluntary Organizations/Institutions/Individuals engaged in preservation and promotion of Tribal/Folk Art and Culture.Besides, the National School of Drama is also implementing a Scheme for Promotion of Folk and Tribal Arts Theatre under which various folk and tribal theatre groups are invited to participate every year in National Theatre Festival and Bal Sangam.

(c)&(d): For supporting folk and other artists who face indigence in their old age, the Ministry is operating a scheme known as the "Scheme of Financial Assistance to Persons Distinguished in Letters, Arts and such other walks of life who may be in indigent circumstances and their dependents". Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs.2000/- per month is given to applicants, selected by the Expert Committee, who are not less than 58 years of age and whose income does not exceed Rs.2000/- per month.